10th August 1955]

Transport of fish by Government vehicles

* 2077 *Q.*—Sri T. P. ELUMALAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 9-30 a.m.

(*a*) whether Government vehicles for the transport of fish are available to all persons who market fish from the places touched by the vehicles;

(*b*) whether individuals are given any priority over co-operative institutions in the matter;

(*c*) whether spare vehicles are made available, if there is any breakdown in transit; and

(*d*) if not, why?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Government vehicles are made available for transport of fish to any fisherman or fishermen co-operative society on application, subject to the applicant entering into an agreement as prescribed by the Fisheries Department.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) No spare vehicles are kept ready to be used, if there is any breakdown in transit. However, all efforts are made to provide another vehicle in case of any breakdown.

" (*d*) The scheme is being worked on a restricted scale with only six vehicles and any proposal to introduce additional vehicles at the existing rates of the hire charges will mean additional loss to the Government."

Honorary Dental Surgeons in Government hospitals

* 2078 *Q.*—Sri C. KANDASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any Honorary Dental Surgeons in the Stanley Hospital, Rayapuram, and the Government Hospital, Royapetta; and

(*b*) if so, their names and qualifications?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir; two Honorary Assistant Medical Officers are in charge of the Dental Sections of the two hospitals. They are—

Dr. N. Radhakrishnan, L.M.P., Government Stanley Hospital, Madras.

Dr. G. B. Raj, L.M.P., Government Royapetta Hospital, Madras.

Sri C. KANDASAMY :—" Is it a fact that people who were more qualified than these people applied for the same post? "

[10th August 1955

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" These people are already in charge of the dental sections. Their terms expire in January 1956 and July 1957, respectively. I may say that these Honorary Aissitant Medical Officers are both Medical Officers and they have considerable experience in dental work."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it a fact that one Dr. Chandrahasan, M.B.B.S., Dental Surgeon, possessing better qualification than the persons who have been employed by the Government applied for this job and his claims were overlooked? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have said that they are already in charge of the dental sections and their terms are due to expire some time later."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We shall now take up the short notice question."

School fee exemption certificates

* 4 *Q.*—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the Government order authorising Members of the Legislative Assembly to sign school fee exemption certificates, whether the Member's signature is to be certified in turn by the Legislature Secretariat? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir, the hon. Member's signature need not be certified by the Legislature Secretariat."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" The circular issued by the department to the schools is not very clear and it is understood that the signatures have to be certified by the Legislature Secretariat. On inquiry, I understand that the Members are required to have a stamp as 'Member of the Legislative Assembly'. Is that necessary. May I also know whether the Members are permitted to sign for the whole district or only for their constituency? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This circular was issued in a hurry because certain irregularities were brought to the notice of the Government that the village officers were taking advantage of this and that in certain areas they were demanding money also for issuing the certificates. So, the Government wanted to rectify the defect immediately. That was why they wanted to authorize all the elected representatives of the people to issue these certificates. No doubt, it has not been made clear how the signature of any particular Member should be authenticated. But this is a matter of detail. The only thing is that the authorities should be satisfied that it is the signature of an M.L.A. and that it is not a bogus signature. The institution will have to satisfy itself to that extent. I am sure that that much of safeguard at least is necessary. As far as the issue of certificates is concerned, no restriction has been placed in respect of the M.L.As. with regard to the area. With regard to the